

DRAFT 6/18/2003

**Memorandum of Understanding**

**Among the States of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia**

**Delmarva Conservation Corridor Demonstration  
Program**

WHEREAS, the Delmarva Peninsula is a national ecological treasure stemming from its surrounding waters of the Chesapeake, Delaware, and coastal Bays and the Atlantic Ocean, and for its mid-continent location along the migration corridors of countless birds, insects, and other species;

WHEREAS, the Delmarva Peninsula is also a national agricultural treasure stemming from its food production capability, unparalleled on the Eastern Seaboard, and its location within an overnight drive of over one third of the nation's consumers;

WHEREAS, the above jurisdictions have initiated numerous programs and partnerships to protect these agricultural and ecological resources;

WHEREAS, the Delmarva Conservation Corridor Demonstration Program (the "Demonstration Program" or "Program") as enabled by Title II(G) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (the Farm Bill), provides for federal support to encourage this effort as a national model for integrating federal and state farm and natural resources conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, a proposal was submitted to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in June of 2003 outlining a plan of action to keep agriculture economically viable and maintain the Peninsula's rich biological diversity.

NOW THEREFORE, all parties hereto do mutually agree, consistent with local laws and resources, to the following:

Each party will commit the staff and resources necessary to meet their obligations as outlined in the above referenced proposal to USDA, and any follow up proposals submitted;

Each party will designate a representative to a Delmarva Conservation Corridor Committee which will meet at least annually to monitor progress of the above Demonstration Program, hold an annual workshop open to the public, and plan for future activities. Through information sharing the Committee will also strive to coordinate conservation and economic development activities, as well as explore alternative funding sources to provide ongoing support of the Delmarva Conservation Corridor initiative and its purposes; and

Each party will provide progress reports as needed on their implementation of the Demonstration Program to USDA and the Delmarva Conservation Corridor Committee.

Signed,

Hon. Ruth Ann Minner  
Governor of Delaware

Hon. Robert Ehrlich  
Governor of Maryland

Hon. Suzanne Wescoat  
Northampton County Board of Supervisors

Hon. Gregory L. Duncan  
Accomack County Board of Supervisors